

From: jas
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 11/5/01 6:34pm
Subject: My thoughts on the matter...

Hello,

I am a long time software developer who has used Microsoft development products even before the introduction of Windows. This experience also includes working as a subcontractor for Microsoft consulting, as well as serving on one of their 'standards' committees during the early days of OLE/COM (wosa/xrt),

For what it's worth, I'd like to throw my two cents in:

If what I have read in Yahoo's news is even partially true...

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/zd/20011105/tc/ms_settlement_reads_like_a_fairy_tale_1.html

...then either you guys are on the take, or your pretty stupid.

To remedy the anti-trust problems with what you have arrived at - is worse than doing nothing at all.

Microsoft has, and continues to use it's monopoly powers to unfairly railroad innovative software companies out of business, and with billions of dollars of marketing muscle, they may very well exercise the very same destructive influence on the internet, at least as far as US software development is concerned.

I say this because I don't think that countries outside of the US, and especially the ones that comprise the future high-growth software markets - will be as short sighted as the USDOJ.

Heck, for national security reasons, foreign government software procurements will not lock themselves into a single vendor for mission critical software, only our country (de-facto) will.

Personally, I'll do OK, as a contractor, I'm a hired gun, but I've seen so many great and innovative software companies go down the drain because they never had the inside look on the operating system internals, nor the untold billions in cash required to stave off a monopolist attack in their niche market.

When you've seen what happened to hardware values: the bang for the buck that you get: in real and absolute terms, one can only imagine what we might have had if the same level of competition existed on the software side of the market.

Unfortunately - due to your recent 'remedy' - we are only left with our imagination of what could have been.

John Soprych

Objective Response, L.L.C.